

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

September 2012



What's New?



If you notice large excavators digging up wetlands just down Forest street, it is because work has begun on the Gary Slot Tribute Wetland. This 75 acre wetland parcel is being restored for waterfowl by a contractor provided by the partnership of the Refuge and Ducks Unlimited in tribute to Gary Slot for his years of conservation and partnership with both entities. The work should make these wetlands look brand new.



And how about a brand new intern! Visitor Services staff is thrilled to welcome Bethanie Rogers! Bethanie is an intern from the Student Conservation Association and comes to us from North Carolina. Bethanie has an Associate's Degree in Fish & Wildlife Management from Haywood Community College and will be helping the Visitor Services staff with Environmental Education and much more.

Thumbs-Up!

We want to send out a big THANK YOU to all of our fabulous volunteer Tour Guides. As we wrap-up our free tour season, we have to say "We couldn't do it without you!" The feedback, as usual, is very high from our visitors about the quality of our tours and tour guides. So THUMBS UP to: Paul Lombardi, Les Talbot, Steve & Louise Brown, Ted & Carolyn McGrath, Gil Paquet, Brian Ferguson, Lyle Bingham, Katrina Taggart, Allen Christensen, Don Biers, and Dean & DeAnn Lester!

Another quick THUMBS UP to our staff, volunteers and youth that participated in Peach Days! For the second year in a row, the Refuge had a float in the Kids parade – but this year we also added our float to the adult parade. A great time was had by all – just check out the picture!



Refuge Roundup



Being September, both Fall and hunting season are right around the corner, so it's good to have some updates on water levels and hunting units before our visitors (hunters and birders alike) begin to ask. The youth hunt will happen on Saturday, Sept. 22 and unit 2 and the hunt portions of 3 will be open for this special youth day. The main hunt opener will be on Saturday, Oct. 6. You may get questions from hunters about water levels. Water is scarce this year due to drought conditions through the summer – but there still should be several areas huntable – but hunters may want to scout ahead or check in with staff and law enforcement for more recent updates.

Also, with the scarcity of water, avian botulism breakouts are a possibility, so be aware that sick birds may be reported by visitors, and should be forwarded on to Refuge staff. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask, and state hunting proclamations and Refuge hunting regulations will be available at the front desk. And don't forget – Fall is a great time to get out and around the Auto Loop to see all the ducks!



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

❖ September 28 & 29: **Federal Duck Stamp Competition!**

This is a once in a lifetime event...the National Federal Duck Stamp Competition and judging is coming to Utah! Come watch as artwork for the next Duck Stamp is chosen! All activities are free and open to the public and will be held at Weber State University. WE NEED EXHIBITS MONITORS, 9/28 - 9/29. SHIFTS ON FRIDAY (8-1 A.M. AND 1-6 P.M.) SATURDAY (8-1 A.M. AND 1-6 P.M.). Contact Kathi. For more information on the program and the Duck Stamp, go to www.fws.gov/duckstamps.



❖ September 29 : **Waterfowl Basics with DELTA Waterfowl**

To celebrate and educate our local youth about hunting and hunting safety, the Refuge is hosting a Waterfowl Basics day in partnership with local hunting group, Delta Waterfowl. Delta and the Refuge will be teaching stations on hunter safety, waterfowl identification, decoying techniques and more! The event will be Saturday, September 29th from 10 am – 1pm.

❖ Sept. 29 – Oct. 13: **SURVEY HELP!**

Coming up this fall, September 29 through October 13, the Refuge will be participating in the 2nd sampling period for the National Visitor Survey, administered by our partners at USGS. If you like to talk to visitors, we can use your help for this survey effort. We'll again be surveying at both the Wildlife Education Center and the Duckville parking lot, and if you are interested in helping out . . . contact Katie.

❖ October 4 - 6: **USEE Conference!**

USEE – the Utah Society for Environmental Education is holding its annual conference here at the Refuge on October 4th through the 6th. We sure could use some registration and room monitor help for the following shifts: FRIDAY (8-1 A.M. AND 1-6) P.M. SATURDAY (8-1 A.M. AND 1-6 P.M.)

❖ October 13: **Photo Contest Awards AND the BIG SIT!**

Saturday, October 13 will be a fun and busy day at the Refuge. Not only will we be handing out our 2012 Amateur Photo Contest awards at 1pm, but all day we will be participating in the BIG SIT – a citizen science bird-watching event. The photo awards have a new award this year...the Fan Favorite. All September – visitors and volunteers can cast their vote for their favorite photo! And if you like birds (and counting them) as much as we do, join us to sit and count for the BIG SIT. We'll be sitting in the "playing field" just south of the Wildlife Education Center. We hope you can join us!



Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- **September 28 & 29: National Federal Duck Stamp Competition!**
- **September 29: Waterfowl Basics with Delta Waterfowl**
- **October 1 – 13: 2nd USGS Visitor Survey**
- **October 13: BIG SIT and Photo Contest Awards**



More BAGS, Please!

WE NEED MORE PLASTIC BAGS! If you have seen the amazing, recycled shopping bags that Tracy (and others) make out of plastic shopping bags – then you know how cool they are. But, we're in need of more plastic bags to be able to make more to sell...so drop them off!